

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2438

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 08624

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, TU, GR, ETRD

SUBJECT: VAN DER STOEL - SOAMES VIST TO ANKARA

REF: EC BRUSSELS 7228

1. SUMMARY: DURING THEIR SEPTEMBER 6-7 VISIT TO ANKARA DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL AND EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES WILL REVIEW EC-TURKISH RELATIONS, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE EC'S RECENT PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE THE EC-TURKISH ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT. EC COMMISSION SOURCES HOPE TE SEPTEMBER 6-7 TALKS WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY CONSTRUCTIVE TO RESULT IN SCHEDULING OF ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING LATE THIS FALL, PERHAPS IN OCTOBER. THEY DO NOT RULE OUT, HOWEVER, A FURTHER POSTPONEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. HANNAY, CHEF DE CABINET TO EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES (HANNAY WILL ACCOMPANY SOAMES TO ANKARA), TELLS US THAT DURING THEIR SEPTEMBER 6-7 VISIT TO ANKARA SOAMES AND DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER
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STOEL WILL REVIEW THE EC'S RECENT PROPOSALS FOR IM-

PROVEMENTS IN THE TERMS OF THE EC-TURKEY ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO HANNAY THE PACKAGE WHICH WAS FINALLY APPROVED BY THE EC COUNCIL ON JULY 19 IS DISTINCTLY MORE FAVORABLE TO TURKEY THAN WHAT THE COMMUNITY HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY PREPARED TO DO, BUT THE COMMISSION STILL HAS NO CLEAR IDEA OF WHETHER THE PROPOSALS ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOT OR NOT. HANNAY THINKS TURKEY WILL ACCEPT THE EC PROPOSAL ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (310 U.A. OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD), AND HE FEELS THAT THE EC PROPOSALS FOR AGRICULTURAL CONCESSIONS, A SLOW DOWN IN THE RATE OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCT TARIFF REDUCTIONS BY TURKEY, AND REINFORCEMENT OF CURRENT PROVISIONS FOR ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION, SHOULD PROVE "MODERATELY ACCEPTABLE."

3. HANNAY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE ISSUE OF THE STATUS OF TURKISH WORKERS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY REMAINS A CONTENTIOUS POINT, WITH THE GERMANS CONTINUING TO INSIST THAT THE EC NOT ADOPT AN OVERLY LIBERAL POSITION. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, THE DCM OF THE TURKISH MISSION TO THE EC ALLEGED THERE IS WIDESPREAD MISCONCEPTION ON THIS ISSUE. HE SAID THE GOT IS NOT DEMANDING COMPLETELY FREE MOVEMENT AND FULL SOCIAL BENEFITS FOR TURKISH WORKERS IMMEDIATELY, ONLY THAT THE PROCESS COMMENCE NOW, WITH A VIEW TOWARD FULL IMPLEMENTATION OVER A TEN YEAR PERIOD.

4. DECLARING HIMSELF "SOMEWHAT PESSIMISTIC," HANNAY THOUGHT THE SEPTEMBER 6-7 TALKS COULD GO "EITHER WAY"- I.E. RESULT IN EITHER (A) IMPROVED EC-TURKISH RELATIONS AND AGREEMENT TO HOLD AN ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING IN OCTOBER, OR (B) AN OUTRIGHT IMPASSE IN TURKISH-EC RELATIONS. HE SPECULATED THAT THE ACTUAL RESULT WILL BE CONDITIONED MORE BY TURKEY'S VIEW OF ITS GENERAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE WORLD AND BY DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS THAN BY THE MERITS OF THE SPECIFIC ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT PROPOSALS PER SE. CHARACTERIZING EC-TURKISH RELATIONS AS "TEETERING" OVER THE PAST 6 MONTHS, HE SAID THE TURKS HAVE HINTED CONFIDENTIAL

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SEVERAL TIMES THAT BECAUSE OF WIDESPREAD SUSPICION IN TURKEY THAT COMMUNITY MEMBERS GENERALLY FAVOR GREECE OVER TURKEY ON A BROAD RANGE OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC MATTERS, IF COMMUNITY PROPOSALS ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY FORTHCOMING AS TO PROVIDE "NEW IMPETUS" TO THE RELATIONSHIP, THE GOT MIGHT HAVE TO INDICATE PUBLICLY THAT IT CONSIDERS EC-TURKISH RELATIONS TO HAVE REACHED THE "CRISIS STAGE." HANNAY ALSO SUGGES-

TED THAT THE EC-TURKISH DIALOGUE IS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY TURKEY'S COALITION POLITICS -VIZ., THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY'S INSISTENCE THAT TURKEY ATTENUATE ITS TIES WITH WESTERN GROUPINGS AND CONCENTRATE ON RELATIONS WITH THE MUSLIM COUNTRIES--AND BY GROWING SENTIMENT IN TURKISH BUSINESS CIRCLES THAT TURKEY'S TIES WITH THE EC ARE HARMFUL TO TURKEY'S EFFORTS TO INDUSTRIALIZE.

5. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, HANNAY SAID THAT THE GOT HAS INDICATED THAT GIVEN THE CURRENT STATE OF TURKEY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TURKEY HAS NO PLANS TO ASK FOR EARLY ACCESSION TO FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC. THIS COMMENT WAS CONFIRMED BY THE TURKISH DCM, WHO SAID THAT WHAT TURKEY SEEKS IS IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERMS OF THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT AND A GRADUAL EVOLUTION TOWARD FULL MEMBERSHIP AS ENVISAGED IN THAT AGREEMENT.

6. THOUGH MORE CAUTIOUS, THE TURKISH DCM'S REMARKS GENERALLY PARALLELED THOSE OF HANNAY. HE, TOO, SPOKE OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE TO TURKEY OF A "FORTHCOMING APPROACH" BY THE EC WHICH COULD PROVIDE "ENW IMPETUS" TO EC-TURKISH RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT WHILE HE HIMSELF BELIEVES THE EC HAS ATTEMPTED TO HANDLE ITS RELATIONS WITH GREECE AND TURKEY IN A BALANCED WAY, MANY IN TURKEY DO NOT SHARE THAT PERCEPTION, AND THAT AS EC-GREECE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED, THE TURKISH PERCEPTION OF IMBALANCE WILL INEVITABLY GROW, UNLESS THE EC IS ABLE TO GIVE PERSUASIVE EVIDENCE THAT IT ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO TURKEY'S CONTINUING ASSOCIATION WITH WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. HINTON

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